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The President's Daily Brief

27 March 1973

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~~*Top Secret*~~ 25X1

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EYES ONLY FOR THE PRESIDENT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

TOP SECRET

March 27, 1973

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Egyptian President Sadat's long speech yesterday suggests no major policy changes; in assuming the premiership, he presumably hopes to prove that he can provide the forceful leadership that many Egyptians have found wanting in his regime. *(Page 1)*

India's low-key response to the US removal of an embargo on sales of military equipment to Pakistan suggests that New Delhi intends to continue to improve relations with Washington. *(Page 2)*

Ugandan President Amin's charges that an invasion by Tanzania is imminent may actually be a further effort to keep his unruly army under control. *(Page 3)*

The appearance of Uruguay's key generals on television and radio last Friday was, in effect, a second warning that civilian government can continue only if it follows the military's directives. *(Page 4)*

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EGYPT

In assuming the premiership yesterday, apparently for a limited period, President Sadat presumably hopes to prove that he can provide the forceful leadership that many Egyptians have found wanting in his regime. Sadat's assumption of the post, however, means that he is more directly exposed to the criticism that previously was partially deflected to former Prime Minister Sidqi. Apparently realizing this, Sadat has promised periodic joint conferences of legislative and party members to approve Egyptian policies, a procedure that would spread responsibility for decision-making.

Sadat's long speech yesterday suggests no major policy changes, and a preliminary report on the new cabinet--which will be formally announced tomorrow--indicates that the reshuffle involves few important shifts.

Sadat directed considerable criticism at the United States in the course of his speech, but he conceded that President Nixon had recently taken a positive position--at least on the surface--regarding some resettlement issues. Sadat described the current phase of the dispute with Israel as "all-out confrontation," but said diplomatic activity would continue. He adhered generally to well-established Egyptian positions regarding settlement terms.

In discussing Egyptian domestic problems, Sadat used the theme of "coming battle" to urge greater discipline and sacrifice. He warned that the activities of dissenters would not be tolerated and described student protesters as only a small minority of malcontents.

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INDIA

India's low-key response to the US removal of an embargo on sales of military equipment to Pakistan suggests that New Delhi intends to continue to improve relations with Washington. The prevailing Indian Government analysis apparently is that the US sales to Pakistan will have no significant effect on the subcontinent's military balance. The government may have been moved toward such a conclusion by growing criticism from conservatives of India's close ties with Moscow.

When die-hard anti-US members in parliament suggested that the government turn down the restoration of $87.6 million in US economic assistance in protest, Finance Minister Chavan refused. Moreover, New Delhi's relatively relaxed position on US arms sales to Pakistan has apparently been communicated to Congress Party functionaries throughout the country. Scarcely a week after the military sales announcement, the social welfare and relief minister of West Bengal buttonholed the US consul general in Calcutta with an appeal for increased PL-480 aid. More such requests are likely as Congress Party officials in other state governments seek US food for their areas.

Mrs. Gandhi will still have to cope with Moscow's strong lobby in India, which will attempt to make the most of the lifting of the arms embargo. 25X1 25X1

Indian policy toward the US, therefore, may appear erratic, but it seems likely that, for now, its main track will be toward better relations. 25X1

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UGANDA

President Amin's charges that an invasion by Tanzania is imminent may actually be a further effort to keep his unruly army under control. The President may have contrived the latest invasion scare in order to put the army on alert and thus keep it too preoccupied to carry out any anti-government move.

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URUGUAY

Last Friday night's appearance on radio and television of all of Uruguay's key generals was more than an effort to force a balky congress to implement the military's plan for national economic recovery. It was, in effect, a second warning that civilian government can continue only if it is willing to follow the military's directives. The generals evidently now believe themselves strong enough to face down any opposition.

The generals also are making their influence felt outside the government. For example, they have given a veiled warning to the nation's strongest labor union that the military will not tolerate a strike scheduled for Thursday.

The reactions of civilian politicians have been rather meek. Ruling Colorado Party leaders have sought only to defend their records against charges of corruption. The opposition Blancos have not commented, but are preparing to do so. The leftists in the "Frente Amplio" coalition say they are "studying" the military's statement.

Within two months, the generals have twice imposed their will by coercion. Further opposition to them could endanger the survival of the already weakened civilian government and possibly prompt the generals to force President Bordaberry's resignation and install a military junta.

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NOTES

UN - South Vietnam: Late last week Secretary-General Waldheim reportedly received both the Provisional Revolutionary Government's formal request for a UN liaison office in New York and a Secretariat memorandum opposing that request. The Secretariat advised Waldheim that there is no precedent for such action. Earlier, UN legal adviser Stavropoulus also cautioned Waldheim against haste, although he found no legal barrier. Despite US objections, Waldheim has continued to consider PRG association, contending that it is necessary for a UN role in Vietnam relief projects. He is now likely to respond that the matter is under study.

Zambia-Rhodesia: The Zambian Government is partially ignoring its border closure by allowing rail traffic to enter Zambia from Rhodesia. Stocks of consumer goods and other imports have dwindled, and the decision to revert to the Rhodesian railroad for imports is designed to avoid the development of public discontent. There has been no relaxation, however, of the ban on copper exports or road traffic through Rhodesia, and Lusaka is still hopeful that massive foreign assistance--so far slow in materializing--will permit it to re-route foreign trade.

USSR-Pakistan: A Soviet mission probably will negotiate a trade agreement with Pakistan in the next few weeks and settle on a list of aid deliveries to be made this year. Earlier this month, Moscow relieved Islamabad of responsibility for outstanding debts incurred on behalf of the former East Pakistan. Soviet-Pakistan economic relations have been dormant since the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war. Prior to the hostilities, Soviet-Pakistani trade amounted to $70 million annually, and Soviet aid deliveries averaged almost $10 million a year.

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